



Alexandria (VA) Branch



THE SCHOONER – May 2024

INSIDE:

Co-Presidents' letter	1
Branch Notes	2
Branch Activities	7
Calendar	12
Contacts	12

SAVE THESE DATES:

5/2/24 7p	Board Meeting
5/4/24 10a	AAUW-VA Annual Meeting
5/9/24 7p	Great Decisions
5/11/24, 11a	Forum On Human Trafficking
5/13/24 7p	Diversity book group
5/28/24 7p	Mystery book group
5/29/24	Christ House Dinner

Dear Friends,

It's time to vote. National voting ends on May 15th and our AAUW-VA voting starts May 7.

The fight against Human Trafficking has been an important focus of ours for several years and we continue our fight with our forum, with outstanding speakers, on May 11th on 11:00 at Burke Library.

The Annual AAUW State Conference at Lynchburg was very interesting: good speakers, good food and fun AAUW friends. The 2025 State Conference will be in Alexandria.

However, the AAUW Regional Conference, with states from the border of Canada to the Everglades is Sept. 27-29th at Virginia Crossings, in Glen Allen, VA (north of Richmond). Our branch is very involved with this project. This will be a great time to get together with friends and fellow members from other states.

Diane Schrier & Sylvia Linke
Co-Presidents

BRANCH NOTES

Programs

Leslie Tourigny
VP for Programs

Have you registered for the AAUW-VA 2024 Annual Business Meeting?

Think of this as Part 2 of the State Conference. It will be held via Zoom webinar on **May 4, 2024**, at 10:00 a.m. You must register in advance for the webinar and to receive the login information.

Register [HERE](#) or below.

At our Business Meeting, we will award the prestigious 2024 AAUW Woman of Achievement Award to Anne Holton, the former Virginia Secretary of Education. Holton also served as the seventh president of George Mason University, their first female president.

You will hear about the accomplishments of your AAUW-VA Board members as well as the state proposed Public Policy Priorities to be voted on in May. This event also will allow you the opportunity to meet this year's candidates for elected positions.

- Lane Stone for President
- Tess Evans for Vice President for Communications
- Susan Burk and Leslie Tourigny for Co-VP for Program
- Diane Schrier for Vice President for Public Policy

To attend, you must **REGISTER** in advance. After registering, you will receive the Zoom log-in information. The Business Meeting Program Book link will be emailed to you one week before the meeting.

The AAUW of Virginia Board members look forward to seeing you at the Business Meeting.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FORUM

May 11, 2024, 11a

Burke branch of the Alexandria Library,
4701 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

The Anti-Human Trafficking Team of the Alexandria branch invite you to learn about forced labor from Evelyn Chumbow and Erica Reid.



Evelyn Chumbow is a survivor of child labor trafficking turned anti-trafficking activist and public speaker who has focused her life's work on ending modern-day slavery, a crime impacting some 40 million victims globally.

Ms. Chumbow was brought to the United States from Cameroon at the age of nine and forced to cook, clean, and care for her trafficker's children. She was never paid for her work, and any hope that she might escape was undermined by the constant beatings she received from her trafficker.

After years of captivity, she finally escaped and her trafficker was sentenced to 17 years in prison. Today, Ms. Chumbow works tirelessly to raise awareness and advocate for other survivors.



Ms. Erica Reid is a Senior Engagement Manager at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center Countering Human Trafficking, Blue Campaign Office with over 18 years of government service. Specializing in public affairs and outreach, Erica uses her experience to raise awareness of human trafficking across the country. Within the Blue Campaign, her portfolio includes educating on the front-end to deter criminal activity and educate communities on how to recognize and report/respond to possible cases of human trafficking. Her portfolio focuses on youth and student leaders, adults working with youth, Native American/Tribal Nations, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Erica has presented to over 5000 persons on human trafficking since joining the Blue Campaign office in 2022.

Submitted by: Sylvia Linke 571-329-5953 (mobile), sylvia.f.linke@outlook.com

End-of-Year Luncheon

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Clyde's at Mark Center

1700 N Beauregard Street

Alexandria, VA

Abundant on-site parking behind the restaurant.

We'll be ordering off of a varied menu at the restaurant and will receive separate checks.

RSVP no later than June 16 to Leslie at ltourigny@gmail.com.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING STATEMENT

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

FROM OUR TREASURER

Are your dues due?

Anne Simpson
Treasurer

It is spring, time to start thinking about renewing your membership. Do it while you are thinking about it! You can pay dues with your credit card on the AAUW website, AAUW.org, or send a check to me payable to the branch. The dues for this year are the same as last year, \$103. \$72 is tax deductible.

PUBLIC POLICY

Virginia Kress
Public Policy Chair

We received this note from Virginia Delegate, Elizabeth Bennett Parker:

I hope you've gotten some rest over the past few weeks since Sine Die. Thank you for all of your work in support of my e-meetings bill, HB894. I am thrilled that it was signed by the Governor and will go into effect on July 1!

I am so grateful to you for being a part of our coalition. We wouldn't have gotten it done without your ongoing support and commitment to making it easier for more residents to give their time and expertise to serve on our boards and commissions.

Thank you again.

Warmly,

Elizabeth



AUTUMN LEAVES

Susan Cash
AAUW Funds Chair

Thanks to all of you who contributed to Autumn Leaves 2023 and congratulations to our drawing winners! We will continue to accept donations. The funds raised are divided equally between the AAUW Alexandria Branch and an AAUW National Fund. **Fifty percent of your donation is tax-deductible.**

If you would like to contribute, please mail a check, **payable to AAUW-Alexandria**, with Autumn Leaves on the memo line, to Susan Cash, 8402 West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308.



Empowering for Equity

Join Us
for the
AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference
Connecting Voices from the Everglades
to the Northern Border



September 27th–29th, 2024

Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center
1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059



Share ideas
with AAUW
members from
12 states in
SWAP SHOPS.

Learn about issues
that matter in our
TRENDING TOPICS.

Read all about it and register here :
<https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com/>

Nearby Attractions

**Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, James River Cellars Winery, Richmond National
Battlefield Park, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Children's Museum of Richmond,
Crossings Golf Course**

BRANCH ACTIVITIES



DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Bonnie Hershberg

Our book for April, The Shadow King by Maaza Mengiste, is a work of historical fiction shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Literary Prize. It unfolds during the early 1930's during a period that was unknown to most Group members. The majority of the story chronicles Italy's attempt prior to World War II to conquer Ethiopia and focuses on the lives of the native warriors whose fierce defense of their country kept it out of Italian hands. The group shared the sentiment that it was a disturbing read on several levels, most prominently related to the brutality with which women were treated by the male characters in general and that of the Italians, as they sought to exercise their hegemony over an agrarian society. Shadow King is rich in themes, including what it means to be a male or female in terms of societal roles and expectations, the horrors and consequences of war, the nature of courage, the costs of antisemitism, misplaced violence, the importance of bearing witness and memorializing, and the meaning of patriotism. While we didn't have the opportunity to explore the question, an important one remains as it applies to this work as well as others of its nature—How does art, if at all, change the historical narrative? On May 13, the Group will discuss Steph Cha's 2019 novel, Your House Will Pay. If you'd like to join us, please email Bonnie Hershberg at hersh3b@gmail.com.



CHRIST HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN

The next supper will be Wednesday, May 29. We will again use the pizza and delivery service of Monterey's Pizza located on N. Fayette St. in Old Town. We used them for the January supper and were pleased with the quality of the pizza and on-time delivery. We will need contributions of cherry tomatoes, small carrots, clementines and cookies. Two members are needed to help assemble the 70 supper bags. If you can help, please contact us.

Margaret Zebrowski - mmzebrow@aol.com

Jan Jaynes - janjjoek@verizon.net



FRANCOPHILE GROUP

Susan Cash

At our next event, we plan to discuss *The Years* by Annie Ernaux (winner of the 2022 Nobel Prize). We hope to meet via Zoom this spring on a Saturday at 3 p.m. Stay tuned for more details. (This is a rescheduling from March).

For more information, please contact Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com or 703/587-4790.



GOURMET OUT

Susan Cash

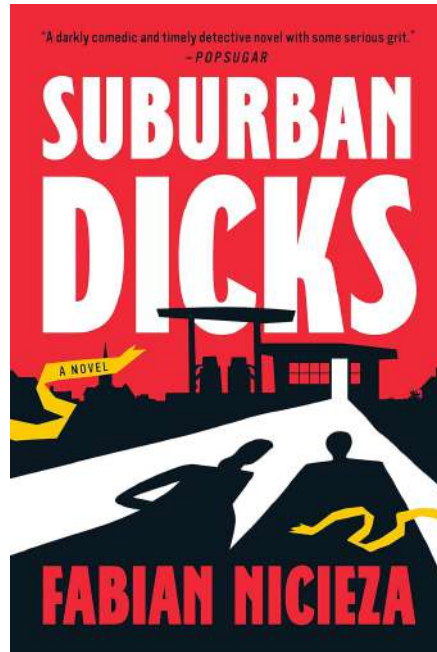
Stay tuned to the newsletter for future events. Point of contact is Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com, 703/587-4790.



MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Susan Werner

Mystery lovers – please join us for the mystery Suburban Dicks by Fabian Nicieza – pregnant woman solves the mystery. The date – May 28, 2024, at 7 PM via Zoom. This is a fun mystery for the spring. Thank you to our Zoom providers. If you have questions about the Mystery Book Discussion Group or suggestions for a mystery – we are always looking for new authors, especially women authors – contact: Susan Werner – susan.werner1@verizon.net. Happy Reading.



KVELLS AND KUDOS

Alexandria Choral Society

ACS is singing again! Celebrate Mother's Day a day early and come to our last concert of the season, "Just As I Am", celebrating love, healing, and personal growth. The concert is at 7:00 on Saturday, June 11th, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 7750 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. The concert will feature singers from Alexandria City High School, winners of our Sing-Off grant. Look for treasurer, **Anne Simpson**, in the alto section, as well as member **Peggy Heiser**.

AAUW-Alexandria members Margaret Batko and Lane Stone complete a 30 mile bike ride to benefit Beebe Hospital – with smiles at the finish line!





Member Benefits You Should Know About: Travel Savings

AAUW members have access to exclusive travel savings from car rentals, hotels, and ticketing discounts to condos, villas, cruises, guided tours, and group travel packages!

Find [savings online](#) from brands like Avis/Budget, Hotel Engine, Collette, TripPlanet, and member-exclusive hotel discounts. Check back often for new providers and promotions. Whether you want to get from here to there or make your dream vacation a reality, AAUW members have all the tools [right at your fingertips](#).



Hello,

If you have already cast your vote in the AAUW national election, we would like to thank you for participating.

As members of AAUW-VA, we take pride in being active, engaged, and invested in our organization. Let's show our commitment with a high voter turnout in Virginia.

Voting commenced on April 3rd, with an email sent from SimplyVoting, and will conclude on May 15th at 12 p.m. Didn't receive yours? Email [connect at aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

With thanks and warm regards,

Lane Stone, AAUW-VA President
Sarita Gregory, AAUW-VA Administrator
And the AAUW-VA Board

2023- 2024 CALENDAR – ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

(CHECK <https://alexandria-va.aauw.net> OFTEN)

- 5/2/24 7p Virtual, AAUW-Alexandria Board Meeting
5/4/24 10a Virtual, AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting,
5/9/24, 7p Great Decisions
5/11/24, 11a Forum On Human Trafficking
5/13/24 7p Diversity Book Group Bonnie Hershburg, hersh3b@gmail.com
5/28/24 7p Mystery book group, Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net
5/29/24 Christ House Dinner, Margaret Zebrowski (Mmzebrow@aol.com) & Jan Jaynes
(janjjoek@verizon.net)
- 6/6/24 7p Virtual, AAUW-Alexandria Board Meeting
6/10/24 7p Diversity Book Group Bonnie Hershburg, hersh3b@gmail.com
6/13/24, 7p Great Decisions
6/22/24, 1p Annual meeting
6/25/24 7p Mystery book group, Susan Werner, susan.werner1@verizon.net

2023-2024 BRANCH OFFICERS

Co-presidents: Sylvia Linke (SFLaauw@gmail.com) & Diane Schrier
(diane.schrier@gmail.com)
VP Membership: Arlene Schuchner (arlene.schuchner@verizon.net)
VP Program: Leslie Tourigny, (ltourigny@gmail.com)
Secretary: Dr. Gail Kalin, (gailkalin@yahoo.com)
AAUW Funds: Susan Cash (scash5558@gmail.com)
Diversity and Inclusion: Dr. Gail Kalin (gailkalin@yahoo.com)
Public Policy: Virginia Kress (vmvkress@gmail.com)
Treasurer: Anne Simpson (aseyedoc@gmail.com)
Newsletter Editor: Lane Stone (info@LaneStoneBooks.com)
Special Interest Group Leaders:
Campus Outreach: Danielle Beach (danielleaauw@gmail.com)
Christ House Dinners: Margaret Zebrowski (Mmzebrow@aol.com) & Jan Jaynes
(janjjoek@verizon.net)
Diversity Book Group: Bonnie Hershberg (hersh3b@gmail.com)
Francophile Group: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com
Gourmet Out Group: Susan Cash, scash5558@gmail.com
Great Decisions: Lynn O'Connell (lynnoconnellva@gmail.com)
Mystery Book Group: Susan Werner (susan.werner1@verizon.net)